

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/CE: DANDERSON:RF
APPROVED BY EUR - MR. LOWENSTEIN
EUR:MR. VINE
H:MR. MCCLOSKEY
S/S-O:DLMACK

----- 051030

R 090131Z MAR 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056700

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, GW

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED AND THE FRG

1. CHURCH MNC SUBCOMMITTEE STAFFER AND RATH MET INFORMALLY WITH DEPT. OFFICER MARCH 5 TO REVIEW PRESENT STATE OF SUBCOMMITTEE'S WORK ON LOCKHEED'S ACTIVITIES IN THE FRG. IN BRIEF, THE MARCH 4-5 EXECUTIVE SESSIONS WITH LOCKHEED EXECUTIVES PROVIDED NO NEW INFORMATION. SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF IS APPARENTLY BAFFLED AS TO HOW TO PROCEED FURTHER, BUT WE ARE TOLD THAT FURTHER HEARINGS AND INVESTIGATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE INASMUCH AS TOO MUCH UNCERTAINTY AND LACK OF CLARITY PERSIST.

2. RATH INDICATED THAT HE WAS CONSIDERING RECOMMENDING TO HIS GOVERNMENT THAT IT REQUEST THE USG'S ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING THE PERTINENT MATERIAL ON LOCKHEED'S ACTIVITIES IN THE FRG FROM THE SEC. RATH (AND THE MNC SUBCOMMITTEE
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STAFFER) THOUGHT THE SEC MIGHT NOW HAVE MORE MATERIAL ON

THIS SUBJECT AT ITS DISPOSAL THAN THE SUBCOMMITTEE.

3. RATH SAID THAT GERMAN TV (ZDF) WOULD RUN A SPECIAL PROGRAM ON THE F-104 SALE, THE LOCKHEED ROLE IN ITS PURCHASE BY THE FRG AND THE SUBSEQUENT POOR PERFORMANCE OF THE AIRCRAFT ON MARCH 14. ACCORDING TO RATH, THE PROGRAM WILL BE A STRONG INDICTMENT OF LOCKHEED AND THE WEST GERMAN PURCHASES.

4. PART OF THE TV PROGRAM WILL CONCERN GENERAL RALL. THE SUBCOMMITTEE STAFFER SAID THAT IT WAS NOW GENERALLY ACCEPTED THAT RALL HAD BEEN BADLY TREATED BY HAUSER AND THE PRESS STORIES. THE SUBCOMMITTEE STAFFER SAID THAT A STATEMENT WOULD BE PROVIDED TO RALL INDICATING THAT NO INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE HAD BEEN UNCOVERED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE INVESTIGATIONS AND THAT THE VARIOUS CHARGES ORIGINALLY NOISED ABOUT WERE NOW CONSIDERED INVALID. THIS STATEMENT WOULD HOPEFULLY BE IN RATH'S HANDS AND WOULD BE USED BY HIM IN HIS INTERVIEW BY ZDF. KISSINGER

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